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Electrical Work  
for Electrical Workers

**International Brotherhood  
Of Electrical Workers**

**Local Union No. 176  
Joliet, Illinois**

July 8, 2020

Brother and Sisters,

All of us are still trying to adjust and find a “new normal” during this COVID-19 pandemic. Luckily in Illinois, as opposed to other parts of the country, infection rates continue to decline. As of June 26<sup>th</sup> we were able to move to phase four of Governor Pritzker’s COVID-19 reopening plan. Phase four loosens restrictions on restaurants, bars, and retail establishments, now allowing indoor dining and gatherings of up to fifty people. As we have been moving from phase three into phase four, we have been able to move towards more normalcy in our daily lives.

Like last month, we will be holding our monthly union meeting at the hall. We will be following CDC and IDPH guidelines at the meeting to ensure the health and safety of all in attendance. I know that many members have health concerns which will prevent them from attending this month’s meeting. For those unable to attend tomorrow’s meeting, like in previous months, the Business Agents have put together monthly reports which you will find below.

Even as we enter phase four of the Governor’s reopening plan and start to open things up somewhat, we are still being pragmatic and cautious in moving forward with events that are attended by large groups. After careful consideration, and using guidance provided by the CDC and IDPH, we have made the difficult decision to cancel this year’s picnic. This decision was not just influenced by current health guidelines and restrictions on large gatherings, but by local municipalities who are not issuing permits or allowing large gatherings to take place at their local parks or facilities. Social gatherings, building brother and sisterhood and camaraderie amongst members is critically important to our local. While we will not be able to gather in Carbon Hill for our annual picnic, phase four guidelines will allow for our RENEW Committee to hold their annual golf outing with proper health guidelines in place. This outing is scheduled for September 19<sup>th</sup> at Nettle Creek Golf Course in Morris. We continue to pursue other avenues where we can come together as a brother and sisterhood in a social setting. Being together socially allows us to get to know each other and helps build compassion and understanding between each one of us. All of this helps us remain strong and unified as a local.

For those that come to the meeting, you may notice a new solar array at the JATC. This 5KW ground mount array was secured through a grant with the Illinois Renewable Energy Fund. Along with the array, through this grant we have received additional solar components that are going to be used for hands on training. As we move into phase four, the JATC is reopening and will begin holding in person classes starting this month. The JATC is working to ensure compliance with CDC guidelines and guidance

from other health care professionals as we reopen our school. The JATC plans to start taking applications for apprenticeship starting sometime early in August.

If you happen to be in Minooka and driving south on Ridge Road, you will notice a new building being constructed by ProMotion Physical Therapy. In front of this project we have installed an illuminated banner asking for the community to support this business because that business choose to use our members to build their building. This is part of a new campaign through the LMCC. We are actively working with other businesses and offering them advertising, asking for the community to support their business, because they are using our members to build. This is an effort to build positive relationships with the community and local businesses and provide a positive image of our local and the skills of our members to the community.

We have begun contract negotiations for our maintenance group at Amita St. Joseph's Hospital. Our contract with the hospital expires this month. We have additional bargaining sessions scheduled and we are hopeful that can come to a resolution soon. As most of you probably know, the nurses at Amita St. Joseph's Hospital are currently on strike. We have been supporting their strike and many of us have been walking the picket line with the nurses and we even loaned them our inflatable rat to use.

On the legislative front, the Governor has reconvened the energy policy workgroups that were meeting prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. These are groups made up of stakeholders throughout the state and these groups are tasked with coming up with energy legislation for Illinois. We are active participants in these groups and are working to ensure that any "energy jobs" in Illinois are good union jobs and that the IBEW is the one doing the construction work on any new energy projects. We are also working on getting the Hazardous Materials Workforce Training Act (SB 1407) on the agenda and voted on during the fall veto session in the house of representatives.

Despite the pandemic, the work situation in our area remains strong. There are many projects that are in the planning stages that we are actively working on. Two I would like to highlight are the Competitive Power Ventures (CPV) project in Morris and the project at Lincoln-Way North High School. The CPV project is tentatively scheduling a meeting for next month. If this meeting goes as planned by CPV, they plan to order turbines for this project and issue a letter to proceed with this project to Kiewit, who is the awarded general contractor for this project. We are hopeful to have a tentative start date after this meeting.

In the budget that was recently passed by the Illinois Legislature and signed by the Governor, there was money allocated for a large remodel project at Lincoln-Way North High School. This school has been closed for over six years and there is no intention of reopening the school as a high school. The money allocated in the state budget is earmarked to purchase the high school from the school district and then convert the school into a new state police regional headquarters, forensics crime lab and government operations center. We are working with the Governor's office to release the money for this project as soon as possible. If the money is released for this project, engineering could immediately proceed, and construction could begin early next year. This would be just the first phase of this project as there are plans for other state offices and training facilities to locate to this building.

I would like to thank everyone for all of your dedication, patience, and support during this pandemic. While the COVID-19 pandemic situation has gotten better in our area, that is not the case throughout the entire country and there is always the possibility things could flare back in our area. I

have family members who are currently diagnosed with and battling COVID-19, so I understand the anxiety and worry that families go through when dealing with this disease. I reflect on and appreciate the efforts made by everyone in this local to support each other and to push our local through this pandemic and help us come out stronger on the other side. Myself and our staff are out on the streets everyday fighting for the betterment of our local and members each and every day. Stay safe, unified, and strong and remember that we are all our brothers and sisters' keepers, so please look out and take care of each other.

In Solidarity,



Michael J. Clemmons  
Business Manager

Business Agent and Apprenticeship reports are as follows:

### **Jim Lockhart**

Book count for Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020

163-Book #1

401-Book #2

5-Residential

20-Sound

11-Apprentices

2-IT

Portability count commercial – 48/1

Portability count residential – 0/1

82 - Bk 2 working in local (75-JW & 7-VDV)

58- JW long calls, 1 turned into a short call, 33 went to BK-2 & 1 to BK-3

29- JW Short calls, 21 went to BK-2 & 1 to BK-4

2- RW long calls

0- RW short calls

1- Sound Long Call, went to BK-2

1- Sound Short call, went to BK-2

17 - Apprentice Calls

There are 63 out of town contractors under inside agreement reporting in the jurisdiction as of tonight.

### **Andy Rico**

**Joliet** - Cresco Labs at 3301 Centerpoint Way, is remodeling their facility adding a parking dock reworking locker rooms and will soon be adding a 50'x15' production/grow room addition. Belmont-Avondale Electric has the contract for this project.

On the corner of Jackson St. and Collins St., a new Thornton's gas station is under construction. Nucore Electric is doing that job.

At 2950 Centerpoint Way, Home Depot Regional Distribution Center Hinsdale Electric has picked up some additional work, reworking power distribution and switchgear to accommodate a new conveyor system. Hinsdale's portion of work is scheduled to be completed by late July or early August. BCU Electric is doing the conveyor work and has 12 electricians onsite. This project is scheduled to be completed by December 2020. Imperial Lighting and Maintenance is finishing up an LED lighting upgrade, swapping out roughly 2,000 light fixtures. They currently have 5 electricians working and plan on completing the project by the end of this month.

Amita St. Joseph Medical Center is remodeling a portion of a 4th floor wing to add new CT scan rooms. Jamerson Bauwens is doing that work and will man it with 4-5 electricians. There has been a delay to this project due to the building trades observing the nurse's picket.

At 2848 McDonough St., the IDOC In-patient facility, Block Electric has approximately 30 electricians working. City Services Electric is doing the temperature control work and currently have 4 electricians onsite. Live Wire Electric has 5 electricians working at the Administration building. VDV work is scheduled to commence within the next few weeks.

At 250 Water Stone Circle, the Joliet Area Community Hospice, construction has begun on a \$3.5 million addition/renovation. Meade Electric is the electrical contractor for this project.

Meade Electric has resumed work for the IDOT Des Plaines river bridge project, reworking the bridge tender house and cabling for 6 bridges. They will be manning it with 4-8 electricians periodically

At Centerpoint Logistics/Business park Connelly Electric is beginning to ramp up at Harbor Freight's nearly 2 million sq. ft. warehouse. Currently they have 11 electricians onsite and will add a couple more at the end of July.

On McKinley Ave. Elliot Electric is working at the Joliet Waste Water Treatment Plant. That work is expected to be completed early in 2021 with manpower fluctuating periodically.

Preferred Electric has been contracted to install a 1.5 megawatt ground mount solar array at Joliet Junior College. This work is scheduled to begin in July and be completed by September.

Continental Electric has two ground mount solar projects starting in September at Chicagoland Speedway.

**Plainfield** - At 15320 Wallin Dr. Plainfield School District 202 / ICI construction has started moving dirt and begun site utility work for the new elementary school directly south of Ira Jones Middle School. Indicom Electric has this job and is starting the underground work.

At the northeast corner of the I-55 and Rt. 30 intersection, Novak construction has the new Costco under roof and that project is in full swing. Volt Electric currently has approximately 18 electricians working on the interior buildout and the parking lot. Climate Pros is doing the Temperature control and Refrigeration work.

Nucore Electric is now onsite doing the electrical work for the Gas Station.

**Elwood** - The Jackson Generation project on Noel and Brandon Rd. is in the cable pulling phase on the electrical side of things and construction is going vertical. Currently there are 42 electricians working on that project and Kiewit anticipates adding manpower over the next few weeks and through the summer. Elliot Electric has been awarded to contract for the Administration building. That building has begun construction and Elliot will have electricians onsite soon.

National Conductor is now onsite to begin construction of the switchyard.

**Bolingbrook** - On Remington Blvd. a new WeatherTech building is coming out of the ground. WeatherTech also has a Multi-tenant office/warehouse development being constructed on Weber Rd. and 111th St. Meany Electric has a total of 8 electricians working these two projects combined. Meany's work at these projects is expected to carry through the end of the year. There are also additional WeatherTech projects in the planning stages.

At 6 Territorial Ct., Connelly Electric has 3 electricians working on the Impact Networking expansion project. This project is scheduled to be completed this fall.

**Romeoville** - At 501 W. Taylor Rd. Crate & Barrel warehouse is in the underground phase of the job. Connelly Electric has this job and they have 6 electricians onsite and will be hiring a couple more in the next few weeks.

At 780 Material Rd., Volt Electric is doing a service/switchgear upgrade for Concrete Specialties Company. They have 2 electricians onsite and this work is scheduled to be completed by the end of July.

Preferred Electric has been contracted to install a 1.5 MW solar array at Lewis University. This work is scheduled to commence in July and be completed by September.

**Shorewood** - At Black Rd. and Rt. 59 next to Home Depot, G.A. Johnson and sons is moving dirt for the new Aldi store. M3 Electric has been awarded the contract for that job.

**Crest Hill** - At 20600 Kubinski Dr., just north of Menards and directly east of the Crest Hill Public Library, construction has begun for the new Crest Hill City Center/Police Department. The city of Crest Hill is direct hiring sub-contractors and has contracted Timm Electric to do the electrical work for that project.

**Naperville** - At 2244 W. 95th St., Johnson Construction has broke ground for the new Compass Church. Nesko Electric has been awarded the contract for this job and is now onsite doing underground work and parking lot lighting.

## **Scott Smith**

**FRANKFORT** - On Wolf Rd and Rt 30 Cedarhurst Senior Living consists of 56 living apartments and 26 memory care apartments. All Electric out of West Frankfort IL Local 702. They finished the underground a month or so ago. Scheduled to be done at the end of the year. The job is starting back up Aug 1<sup>st</sup>. There was a delay due to COVID-19.

**LOCKPORT** - Holiday Inn started this week in Lockport, it consists of 81 units at 54,000 square ft. Its located at 355 and 143<sup>rd</sup> J.B Electric was awarded this last month. Peak is the General Contractor they told me its scheduled to be open by Jan 1<sup>st</sup>. They put in a couple calls last week.

At 15901 W 147<sup>th</sup> off 355 Heritage Crossing Industrial Park has a 750,000 square foot spec warehouse. Complete Electric out of 461 is out there.

Grand Kahn Electric out of 134 is out at Dupage Medical Group located at 1206 E 9<sup>th</sup> St. there adding a MRI unit. Small job might put in a short call or two depending on the schedule.

Beery Electric out of Local 461 has a spec warehouse across the street at 16535 Prologis Business Park. They will be putting in a couple short calls in the next few weeks.

Jolen Electric has some School work at William Butler Elementary located at 1900 Farrel Rd.

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**NEW LENOX** - The new Metra Station located on 30 and Cedar. The Electrical Contractor for the station is Volt Electric. John Burns has the parking lot portion. Volt finished up underground a couple weeks ago. The Job is scheduled to be finished by Dec.

Silver Cross has 30,000 expansion Block Electric was awarded this they started vertical a few weeks ago.

At 1991 W Haven Wood Dale Electric has the new indoor storage unit facility they will be putting in a few short calls soon. This is on the corner of Cherry Hill Business Park.

**HOMER GLEN** – Hawk Enterprises has various Traffic Signal work in area.

Shorewood Home and Auto is Building a new facility at 13639 159<sup>th</sup>. This a showroom, sales and service department like they have in Shorewood. Timm Electric has this project.

GS Electric out of 134 has some school work at Oak Prairie Junior High at 15161 S Gougar Rd.

**MOKENA** -Total Electric has some more upgrade work at the Pipefitters Training Center located at 10850 187<sup>th</sup>. The job is good for a couple months.

On the corner of Route 30 and Owens Road Palos Health Care Center broke ground last month. It consists of 3 story 50,000 square ft. Sharlen Electric hooked up temporary trailer a few weeks ago. Walsh is the General Contractor. Sharlen was just awarded the job as of last week.

O'Carrol Electric has two spec warehouses going at 8905 187<sup>th</sup> St Industrial Dr.

**MANHATTAN** – At 500 North ST Manhattan. Millennium Construction and Dollar General has hired many out of town Contractors that are not signatory with our local unions. JIM WATTS ELECTRIC out of Springfield was awarded the electrical contract and they are not signatory with Local 176. Please let everyone know that DOLLAR GENERAL does not support the local community and local contractors.

**Residential** – Plainfield on Walin Dr has an apartment Development. It's called Sixteen-30 its Luxury Lifestyle Apartments with 248 units. Cary Electric out of Local 117 was awarded this job a couple months ago. They been working on site utility and finally putting in some footings. Talked to project Manager told me there were scheduled for underground by end of July.

## **Barry Aldrich**

**Channahon** – Sound Incorporated had three techs out @ the Amazon Spec Warehouse since my last report, most all the contractors have finished up at this time on that project.

“D” Construction had a few of their guys at the “D” tank farm off Amaco Road, they have been installing some heat tracing out there.

**Morris** – Halm Electric was at the T-Mobil store located in the strip plaza just west of Walmart off Rt.6 for a few days working on a store front remodel for them.

At the Morris High School, there was a non-union ex-176 member contractor named Wood Communications lined up to do some new fiber optic work for the new Press box / Stadium work that’s been ongoing, we were able to get them kicked off and LVS came in to take over that portion of the project.

Durkin Electric is now onsite at the new Financial Plus Credit Union on Rt. 47 & High Street, they are there doing the temperature control work.

Morse Electric has finally been putting calls in for the solar array out the GE/Hitachi plant that sits just west of Dresden they have seven JW’s out there on this project.

Ayers Electric picked up a descent size job at the FS facility just North of Morris on Rt. 47. They also had a small project going on at the Goose Lake Clubhouse working on parking lot lighting.

**Minooka** – At the Minooka High School, Helm Electric has been working there for some time now, but CES & MJ electric have been brought into that school as well.

**Dwight** – At the Aldi’s Warehouse located near Rt.47 & I-55, they are installing a new 600KW wind turbine for that facility, Kelso-Burnett has that but will be looking to sub some of the work out to another contractor in the near future. Kelso has nobody onsite as of today.

## **Floyd Jones**

**SENECA:** Sound Inc. from Local 701 was awarded some Life Safety work at the Seneca High School

**OTTAWA/UTICA:** Halm Electric was awarded the job at the UAW Center in Ottawa adding a new office building, they are just getting started on the foundation work now. Tri-City Electric has the job at Starved Rock Lock and Dam and Marseilles Lock and Dam, they are still planning on adding manpower through the end of July at the Starved Rock Lock and Dam. The project is planned on being done by the end of October.

**OGLESBY:** NuCore Electric is working on completing the outside work at the new Speedway. That project will be completed in the next couple months.

**OHIO/GALVA/TISKALWA:** Tri-City Electric from Local 145 has the job at the Ohio School for the remodel of some classrooms. Rock River Electric from Local 145 was awarded the work at the Galva School for

the remodel of the new science rooms. Renew Electric from Local 426 has the job at the Lonetree Windfarm for the 32 windtowers, it looks like they will still need manpower sometime at the end of July, the job is supposed to be completed by the end of September.

**LASALLE-PERU:** JB Contracting was awarded some of the site work for the new Peru Police Station, the rest of the site work and the new building package has not been let yet for that project. Climate Pros was awarded the contract for the remodel at the Peru Walmart. William A Randolph is the General on the project, and Thompson Electronics from Local 34 picked up a low voltage job at Pretium Packaging in Peru.

**SPRING VALLEY:** Associated Electrical from Local 117 was awarded some Life Safety work at John F Kennedy Elementary School.

**BRADFORD/KEWANEE:** Oberlander Electric from Local 34 has some Life Safety work at the Bradford High School. Oberlander Electric was also awarded a project at the Central Jr. High School in Kewanee.

**EARLVILLE:** Advanced Data Technologies is finishing up the retrofit lighting job at the Earlville School District.

**TOULON:** Brittin Electrical from Local 34 has a project at the Waste Water Treatment Plant in Toulon.

## **Deric Wilkins**

**Herscher** – Herscher High School is putting up a new concession stand/bathrooms. CJ Power out of Local 461 has this project with two guys.

Herscher High School is also doing summer remodeling work and Clennon Electric has three to four guy on this project.

**University Park-** A New Amazon is going up at Steger rd. and Central, Clayco is the general. The electrical contractor is ABCO .and they now have walls up, calls will be coming in shortly.

Governors State is remodeling their cafeteria. Excel has two guys on that project.

Midwest store fixtures is doing a build-out of an existing warehouse at 25975 Cleveland, University Park. Ruder Electric has this project and they have six guys for about six weeks.

**Manteno** – The old Sears warehouse at 1600 N. Boudreau Rd was bought by Lowe's . Bryan Electric out of Georgia is nonunion. We did picket for three weeks.

The Manteno Veterans Hospital is doing a phase2 covid-19 isolation room , Ryan electric has that job. Abco electric is also out there.

**Kankakee** - KCC Student Success Center Remodel job is going well Keast Electric has four guys out there. Completion date is late July.



Kankakee High School addition is going up. Excel Electric has that project.

Classic Cinema addition in Kankakee is going. KPI has 4 guys out there

Splash Valley water park on River road in Kankakee is doing \$4.6 mil. Remodel job. Ruder Electric has two guys on this project.

CSL Behring is moving slow. We still have three or four contractors out there

Nucor Steel job is completed.

Riverside Hospital remodel job is going well, Ruder has this job. With 7 or 8 guys.

Solar project 2 meg going up on South Schuyler Keast Electric has this.

**Bourbonnais** - New Aldi's store in Bourbonnais has started. 4 Star electric has this project.

Olivet Collage is remodeling its Science Building. Ruder Electric has this project.

Oak Orthopedics Center on RT 45 & 6000RD in Bourbonnais is putting up a new \$15 mil building. it has not been let yet.

Riverside \$ 25 mil New Med Building in Bourbonnais was set to start in July but may be on hold due to Covid-19. Riverside did lay off 500 of their staff.

ST. George School in Bourbonnais is doing a 10-classroom addition. Ruder Electric has that project, completion date is the end of July of 2021.

**Gilman** - Incobrasa in Gilman is doing some updates. Ruder has 4 guys out there.

**Grant Park** - Peoria Packing is doing phase 2 addition. Emmerich Electric has that project. Love's Travel Stop will be putting up a new building (upcoming).

**Beecher** - A new Fire Station is going up. Timm Electric has the job. They are moving dirt.

## **Chris Lindstrom**

- This month we organized in a sound tech. We stripped him from Interbay Technologies. He will be referred to a local contractor.
- Local 176 took job action against Battaglia Electric earlier this month. Battaglia is working at the new 7-11 gas station on Rt 59 and Renwick road in Plainfield. I'd like to thank the Brothers and Sisters that came out to help with that picket on a couple of hot days.
- We may be forced to picket later this month in Peru at the Mr. Sparkle car wash that Floyd reported on in May. If anyone is interested in helping with that, you can get ahold of me or Floyd.

- I participated in the monthly IL state organizers meeting again this month. Locals that reported open calls include: LU 725 Terra Haute has open calls for a hospital job working 6-10s and LU 461 Aurora has open calls for temperature control work. If you are interested, call those halls before you make a trip.
- As Illinois moves into Phase 4 of the re-open plan, I would again urge everyone to remain vigilant and follow the advice of doctors and scientists. We will get through this and be stronger for our efforts. Stay united and take care of each other.

### **Matt Kenney – Apprenticeship**

We have been working on guidelines for starting classes back up at the JATC. Things will be different than before due to the pandemic we are all living through. We have looked at CDC policies, Illinois directives, and Illinois State Board of Education policies to make our facility as safe as we can.

We have been able to complete a lot of maintenance projects to make the building better. The instructors have deep cleaned the entire building so that we will be ready to start classes this month.

Aptitude testing for applicants that were already in the system will begin as well. We will begin taking new applications in early August for the next school year.

### **Ken Sanderson - Safety**

Good evening.

Welcome to July! As we are an inside local, I'm sure everyone knows the old basics for surviving the summer heat. Hydrate early and often, work in the shade when possible, wear head and neck coverings, use sunblock. And watch out in the same manner for our little ones, whether at home or out and about in a car. Speaking of little ones, make it a habit to ALWAYS check the back seat!

But how about now that we are all dealing with Covid 19 and wearing facemasks in the heat?

Here are a few tips to make wearing a mask more bearable (and yes, I do understand that facemasks are a contractor-provided safety item):

- Use a mask made of breathable fabric, like cotton.
- Use a mask that ties behind the head instead of the elastic straps. This does two things; the fit is more adjustable and there is less irritation to the ears.
- Have a handful of clean, fresh masks on hand so that they can be swapped out during the day when soiled or sweat-soaked.
- Take care of your skin. If you show up to work with a severe sunburn because you went tubing down the DuPage without sunblock, it's not going to help with mask-wearing comfort.

I already know the arguments: "But facemasks suck, I can't breathe in it, it's 93 degrees and the mask is soaked in sweat in 30 seconds".

Believe me, I get it. What I can say to that is make an effort, do the best you can in a difficult situation, and keep yourself and those around you as safe as possible.